

Application No. : 10/782,266  
Filed : February 18, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-90. (Canceled).

91. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a radial force against a surface of a passageway with an expandable device, comprising:

providing forming an expandable device with a plurality of cells expandable between a stable contracted state and a ~~stable~~ expanded state;

~~selecting the geometry of the cells such that the cells expand autonomously once expanded past a transition point; and~~

radially expanding the expandable device ~~past the transition point and~~ against a surface of the passageway.

92. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein ~~forming comprises the step of radially expanding~~ comprises expanding the plurality of cells without axial shortening of the expandable device.

93. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein ~~forming comprises forming the expandable device~~ comprises a tubular member.

94. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein ~~forming comprises forming the expandable device~~ comprises a liner.

95. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 91, wherein ~~selecting comprises selecting a geometry that utilizes a combination of~~ the expandable device comprises thick struts coupled to thin struts.

96-112. (Canceled)

113. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing an unsupported section of a passageway, comprising:

providing an expandable ~~bistable~~ device having a ~~generally tubular shape that comprises a plurality of~~ one or more bistable cells, each of the ~~bistable~~ cells comprising first and second arcuate members;

placing the ~~bistable~~ device at a position in the passageway while in a first stable state; and

expanding the one or more cells by applying a force up to a transition point defining a geometry of the one or more cells at which no additional force is necessary to expand the one or more cells from a collapsed configuration to an expanded

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configuration, the expandable device being configured to expand upon removal of a force beyond the transition point.

~~radially expanding the bistable device to a second stable state having a generally tubular configuration without substantially reducing axial length.~~

114. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 113, further comprising attaching a wrapping to the outer surface of the ~~bistable~~ device.

115. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 114, wherein attaching comprises attaching an expandable material.

116. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 113, further comprising applying a deformable material to the outer surface of the ~~bistable~~ device.

117. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 116, wherein applying comprises applying an elastomeric material.

118. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 113, ~~wherein radially expanding comprises~~ further comprising expanding the bistable device to a first stable size and a second stable size.~~plurality of final diameters.~~

119. (Currently Amended) A method for installing a liner within a tubular passageway, comprising:

~~forming providing an expandable bistable device with a plurality of bistable cells, each of the bistable cells comprising first and second arcuate members, each cell capable of assuming a stable collapsed configuration and a stable expanded configuration, the expandable bistable device having a generally tubular shape; and~~

~~surrounding the expandable bistable device with an expandable liner element attached to an outer surface of the bistable device[[:]]~~

~~placing the expandable bistable device at a position within the tubular passageway while in a first stable state; and~~

~~expanding the expandable bistable device into a second stable state to hold the liner element against an inner diameter of the tubular passageway.~~

120. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 119, further comprising:

placing the expandable device at a position within the tubular passageway while in a first stable state; and

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expanding the expandable device into a second stable state to hold the liner element against an inner diameter of the tubular passageway

~~locating multiple bistable devices in the passageway such that the ends of the adjacent bistable devices overlap and form a continuation of the liner element against the inner diameter of the tubular passageway.~~

121. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 119, ~~further comprising creating each bistable cell so that~~ wherein the first arcuate member comprises a thin strut and the second arcuate member is a thick strut.

122. (Currently Amended) A method of isolating a portion of a passageway, comprising:

inserting within the passageway an expandable ~~bistable~~ multistable device ~~having a generally tubular shape formed by a plurality~~ one or more of cells that permit the expandable ~~bistable~~ device to be selectively actuated between a contracted state and at least one expanded state, each of the ~~bistable~~ cells comprising first and second arcuate members; [[and]]

expanding the one or more cells from a stable collapsed configuration to a stable expanded configuration, wherein there are no stable configurations between the stable collapsed configuration and the stable expanded configuration; and

~~deploying the expandable bistable device to the expanded state to isolate~~ isolating a portion of the passageway with the expandable device.

123-126. (Canceled)

127. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the first and second arcuate members comprises a wave shape in the contracted state.

128. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the step of ~~deploying~~ expanding occurs without axial shortening of the expandable ~~bistable~~ multistable device.

129. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 122, wherein the first arcuate member is more flexible than the second arcuate member.

130. (Currently Amended) A method of expanding an expandable device in a passage way, comprising:

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providing an expandable device comprising a plurality of first and second arcuate members, the second arcuate members being more pliable than the first arcuate members; positioning the expandable device in a passage way; and

transitioning at least some of the second arcuate members from a first stable collapsed position to a second stable expanded position, wherein no stable positions exist between the first stable collapsed position and the second stable expanded position; ~~wherein the step of transitioning expands the expandable device proximate to a surface of the passage way.~~

131. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 130, wherein each of the second arcuate members comprise a wave shape in the first stable position.

132. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 130, wherein the step of transitioning comprises expanding the expandable device radially outward.

133. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 130, wherein the expandable device is a medical device.

134. (New) The method as recited in Claim 91, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

135. (New) The method as recited in Claim 113, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

136. (New) The method as recited in Claim 119, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

137. (New) The method as recited in Claim 122, wherein the passageway is in a body of a patient.

138. (New) The method as recited in Claim 130, further comprising inserting a portion of the expandable device into a body of a patient.

139. (New) The method as recited in Claim 113, wherein the device has a generally tubular shape.

140. (New) The method as recited in Claim 119, further comprising locating multiple bistable devices in the passageway such that the ends of the adjacent bistable devices overlap and form a continuation of the liner element against the inner diameter of the tubular passageway.

141. (New) The method as recited in Claim 113, wherein the device is a single unit cell device.

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142. (New) The method as recited in Claim 130, further comprising applying a radially outward force to the expandable device.